



The Good News

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Father's Day

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Today is a day that has been set aside by our society to celebrate and honor our fathers or those who filled the role of a father in our lives. It was started by Grace Clayton, who lost her father right before the Monongah Mining Disaster in 1907. It left over a thousand children fatherless. She suggested that these men be honored. The observation of Father's Day has been in existence in some form ever since and eventually was recognized as an official holiday by Richard Nixon in 1972. It is a day on which we reflect how valuable these men have been in our development and progress as we grow in our lives and experiences. The wisdom and guidance that these men provide cannot be understated. Consider with me the following four characteristics of godly fathers:

They want to instruct us to be successful:

Our earthly fathers want us to be successful in every endeavor that we undertake, whether it is our career, our family, our education, and most importantly, our soul. They try to equip us to have the tools to make and maintain the decisions that will benefit us the most. Much of this training takes place as we grow so that we will appreciate the roles we must fill in the world around us. Solomon says in **Proverbs 22:6** that if his "sons" train a child in the way he should go, when the child is older he will not depart from that way. God also wants us to be successful in our spiritual lives. He has "*given us all things that pertain to life and godliness*" (**II Pet. 1:3**). He has given us His word, which equips us to be godly servants (**II Tim. 3:16-17**). His word teaches us how to live (**Titus 2:11-14**).

They discipline us for our benefit: Our earthly fathers often discipline us when we are young, and even as we age, so that we can know the proper course our lives should take. Solomon reminded his "sons" in **Prov. 22:15** and **23:13** that the rod of correction is needed for children. The Hebrew writer reminded the Hebrews of this in **Heb. 12** amidst a context in which God, through the words of the Hebrew writer, was chastising the saints for not being

what they should've been. God continues to chastise us through His word when we are not what we should be.

They are always there for us, no matter

what: A wonderful example of this is the parable of the Prodigal Son in **Luke 15:11-24**. The son of a rich man took his inheritance, ran away, and spent it all on extravagant living. Eventually, he ran out of funds, to the point that he was even eating the food that the swine ate. He finally came to his senses and decided to return to his father and ask that he be made a lowly servant. As he neared his father house, his father saw him and ran to him and kissed him. He rejoiced that his son had returned. Every godly father will always love their children, no matter what. There may be certain actions that the child must take to get back into a stable relationship, such as changing a course of action and making amends, but the desire to care for that child will always be there. God is the same, as we see in this example of the Prodigal Son. God is always there for us, no matter what. All we have to do is follow what He says.

They love us, but often draw lines in the sand for us to understand our state: From Joshua to Elijah to John, we have examples of men who drew lines in the sand for the people to understand their state with God. Whether we are discussing godly fathers, or God Himself, sometimes lines have to be drawn for us to appreciate the situation we are in. Jesus makes it clear in **Matt. 7:21-23** that God will not save everyone in judgment, only those "who do the will of My Father".

Let us always appreciate our godly fathers and other individuals who help to train us up in the way that is right in God's sight. Even more importantly, let us always cling to the Heavenly Father, realizing that our future in Heaven depends on our reverence and obedience to His Word.